

Singer Company - Kearfott Division

EPA ID Number: NJD002148484

Other (Former) Names of Site

Kearfott Guidance & Navigation Corporation

Site Facts

Singer Company - Kearfott Division is located at 1150 McBride Avenue in Little Falls, New Jersey. Singer Company is the owner and operator of this Little Falls facility, which manufactures electronic components, primarily for the aerospace industry. This facility consists of two separate tracts, the McBride Avenue site and the Memorial Drive site, but both will be included in this fact sheet.

A school property east of the Memorial Drive site has contamination associated with the Memorial Drive site and is being investigated separately by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Information regarding the school property will also be included in this fact sheet.

The McBride Avenue site consists of approximately 37 acres in an area that is both industrial and residential. This site consists of two plants, Plant 1, which occupies 25 acres, and Plant 3, which occupies 12 acres. However, half of Plant 3's acreage consists of a vacant lot that has the same contamination as the Memorial Drive site. Therefore, the vacant lot area has been addressed under the Memorial Drive site. The company began its operations at Plant 1, which was built in 1950. Prior to that, the site was vacant. The McBride Avenue site operations involve the design, manufacturing and testing of navigation systems for the aerospace industry.

The Memorial Drive site, which Singer-Kearfott purchased in 1956, encompasses 6 acres of wooded land (vacant lot) west of Memorial Drive as well as the school property.

Contamination

Contamination at the McBride Avenue site occurred from leaking underground storage tanks and drums. The Memorial Drive site and portions of the school property were reportedly used as a dumpsite by the West Paterson Coal Gas Company for coal, ash, coke, coal tar and wood chips.

The soil contamination at the McBride Avenue site facility consisted of organic compounds such as trichloroethene, vinyl chloride, and chloroethane, as well as metals, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The groundwater contamination also consists of organic compounds.

The groundwater and soil at the Memorial Drive site is contaminated with organic compounds and metals associated with the material found at the Memorial Drive dumpsite. The soil and groundwater at the school property are contaminated with similar organic compounds found at the Memorial Drive Site; however, concentrations in the soil only slightly exceed residential standards.

What Is Being Done

McBride Avenue site

The soil at all but two areas has been cleaned up. The two outstanding areas consist of an underground storage tank (UST) area and an old drum staging area. The UST was removed as well as most of the contaminated soil; however, not all the contaminated soil could be removed due to obstructions. Land use in this area will be restricted to industrial purposes only. The drum staging area was recently sampled and showed no contamination. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has accepted a proposal from the company that no further work is required for this area.

Memorial Drive site and school property

Soil was removed from several highly contaminated locations at the Memorial Drive site. Areas with low levels of contamination were covered to prevent human contact. Concentrations of groundwater contamination at both the Memorial Drive site and the school property have been naturally degrading and it is expected that levels will continue to decrease. No drinking water wells will be allowed in this area until standards have been met. If this property is ever sold, the purchaser must be informed of the remaining contamination at the site.

What Needs To Be Done

Singer-Kearfott is currently sampling groundwater at the McBride Avenue site to determine the extent of the contamination. It is also investigating streams and soil near the streams for contamination. Once these investigations are complete, clean-up actions will be decided. The remaining soil contamination associated with the UST area will be addressed by restricting the site to industrial use only. The company must also inform any future purchaser of the residual contamination. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will supervise the removal of the soil at the school property that slightly exceeds residential standards. Where the soil cannot be removed, it will be covered to prevent human exposure.

Site Repository

Copies of supporting technical documents and correspondence cited in the site fact sheet are available for public review at the following location:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Solid & Hazardous Waste
Records Center

401 E. State Street, 6th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625
Telephone (609) 777-3373